

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA
CENTRAL DIVISION**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

JOSE JUAN ISLAS-BRAVO,

Defendant.

No. CR 07-3039-MWB

**INSTRUCTIONS
TO THE JURY**

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VERDICT FORM

INSTRUCTION NO. 1 - INTRODUCTION

Members of the jury, I am giving you these Instructions to help you better understand the trial and your role in it. Consider these instructions, together with all written and oral instructions that Judge Bennett may give you during or at the end of the trial, and apply them as a whole to the facts of the case.

As I explained during jury selection, in an Indictment, a Grand Jury charges defendant Jose Juan Islas-Bravo with two offenses: **Count 1** charges him with “conspiracy” to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine, and **Count 2** charges him with “possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine.” As I also explained during jury selection, an Indictment is simply an accusation. It is not evidence of anything. The defendant has pled not guilty to each crime charged against him, and he is presumed to be innocent of any charged offense unless and until the prosecution proves his guilt on that offense beyond a reasonable doubt.

Your duty is to decide from the evidence whether the defendant is not guilty or guilty of each charge against him. You will find the facts from the evidence. You are the sole judges of the facts, but you must follow the law as stated in these instructions, whether you agree with it or not.

Do not allow sympathy or prejudice to influence you. The law demands of you a just verdict, based solely on the evidence, your common sense, and the law in these instructions. Do not take anything that I may have done during jury selection or that Judge Bennett may say or do during the trial as indicating what we

think of the evidence or what we think your verdict should be. Similarly, do not conclude from any ruling or other comment that I have made or that Judge Bennett may make that we have any opinions on how you should decide the case.

Please remember that only defendant Jose Juan Islas-Bravo, not anyone else, is on trial here. Also, remember that this defendant is on trial *only* for the offenses charged against him in the Indictment, not for anything else.

You must give separate consideration to each charge against the defendant. Therefore, you must return a separate, unanimous verdict on each charge against the defendant.

INSTRUCTION NO. 2 - PRELIMINARY MATTERS

Before I turn to specific instructions on the offenses charged in this case, I must explain some preliminary matters.

“Elements”

Each offense charged in this case consists of “elements,” which the prosecution must prove beyond a reasonable doubt against the defendant in order to convict him of that offense. I will summarize in the following instructions the elements of each offense with which the defendant is charged.

Timing

The Indictment alleges that the offenses were committed “between about” one date “through” another date or “on or about” a specific date. The prosecution does not have to prove with certainty the exact date of an offense charged. It is sufficient if the prosecution’s evidence establishes that an offense occurred within a reasonable time of the time period alleged for that offense in the Indictment.

Controlled substances

In these instructions, when I refer to a “controlled substance,” I mean any drug or narcotic that is regulated by federal law. The offenses charged in this case allegedly involved two such “controlled substance”: (1) “a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of methamphetamine,” which I will call simply “a methamphetamine mixture,” and (2) “actual (pure) methamphetamine.” “Actual (pure) methamphetamine” is methamphetamine itself—that is, either by itself or

contained in a mixture or substance. A “methamphetamine mixture” is a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of “actual (pure) methamphetamine.”

“Intent” and “Knowledge”

The elements of the charged offenses may require proof of what the defendant “intended” or “knew.” Where what the defendant “intended” or “knew” is an element of an offense, the defendant’s “intent” or “knowledge” must be proved beyond a reasonable doubt. “Intent” and “knowledge” are mental states. It is seldom, if ever, possible to determine directly the operations of the human mind. Nevertheless, “intent” and “knowledge” may be proved like anything else, from reasonable inferences and deductions drawn from the facts proved by the evidence.

An act was done “knowingly” if the defendant was aware of the act and did not act through ignorance, mistake, or accident. The prosecution is not required to prove that the defendant knew that his acts or omissions were unlawful. An act was done “intentionally” if the defendant did the act voluntarily, without coercion, and not because of ignorance, mistake, accident, or inadvertence.

“Possession,” “Distribution,” and “Delivery”

The offenses charged in this case allegedly involved “distribution of methamphetamine,” “possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine,” or a conspiracy to do those things. “Distribution,” in turn, involves “delivery” or transfer of “possession.” The following definitions of “possession,” “distribution,” and “delivery” apply in these instructions:

The law recognizes several kinds of “possession.” A person was in “actual possession” of an item if the person knowingly had direct physical control over that

item at a given time. A person was in “constructive possession” of an item, even if the person did not have direct physical control over that item, if the person knew of the presence of the item and had control over the place where the item was located or had control or ownership of the item itself. Thus, mere presence of a person where an item is found or mere proximity of a person to the item is insufficient to establish a person’s “possession” of that item. The person must know of the presence of the item at the same time that he or she has control over the item or the place where it was found. “Constructive possession” can be established by a showing that the item was seized at the person’s residence, if the person knew of the presence of the item at the residence. If one person alone had actual or constructive possession of an item, possession was “sole.” If two or more persons shared actual or constructive possession of an item, possession was “joint.”

The term “distribute” means to deliver an item, such as methamphetamine, to the actual or constructive possession of another person. The term “deliver” means the actual, constructive, or attempted transfer of an item, such as methamphetamine, to the actual or constructive possession of another person. It is not necessary that money or anything of value changed hands for you to find that there was a “distribution” of methamphetamine, “possession with intent to distribute” methamphetamine, or a “conspiracy” to distribute and possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine. The law prohibits “conspiring” to distribute and/or to possess within intent to distribute methamphetamine, “distribution” of methamphetamine, and “possession with intent to distribute” methamphetamine. The prosecution does not have to prove that there was or was intended to be a

“sale” of methamphetamine to prove the “conspiracy” or “possession with intent to distribute” offenses charged in this case.

* * *

I will now give you more specific instructions about the offenses charged in the Indictment.

INSTRUCTION NO. 3 - COUNT 1: CONSPIRACY

Count 1 of the Indictment charges that, between about June 2006, through about August 8, 2007, the defendant knowingly and intentionally conspired with others, known and unknown to the Grand Jury, to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute 500 grams or more of a methamphetamine mixture. The defendant denies that he committed this “conspiracy” offense.

For you to find the defendant guilty of this “conspiracy” offense, the prosecution must prove beyond a reasonable doubt *all* of the following essential elements:

One, between about June 2006 and continuing through August 8, 2007, two or more persons reached an agreement or came to an understanding to distribute and/or to possess with intent to distribute a methamphetamine mixture.

The prosecution must prove that the defendant reached an agreement or understanding with at least one other person. The other person or persons do not have to be defendants, or named in the Indictment, or otherwise charged with a crime. There is no requirement that any other conspirators be named as long as you find beyond a reasonable doubt that there was at least one other co-conspirator besides the defendant.

The “agreement or understanding” need not have been an express or formal agreement, or have been in writing, or have covered all the details of how it was to be carried out. Also, the members need not have directly stated between themselves the details or purpose of the

scheme. The agreement may be inferred from all of the circumstances and the conduct of the alleged participants.

The Indictment charges that the conspirators agreed to commit two separate offenses as the “objectives” of the conspiracy: “distribution of a methamphetamine mixture” and “possession with intent to distribute a methamphetamine mixture.” To assist you in determining whether or not there was an agreement to commit an offense alleged to be an “objective” of the conspiracy, you should consider the elements of that offense. The elements of “*distribution of a methamphetamine mixture*” are the following: (1) on or about the date alleged, a person intentionally distributed a methamphetamine mixture to another; and (2) at the time of the distribution, the person knew that what he or she was distributing was a controlled substance. The elements of “*possession with intent to distribute a methamphetamine mixture*” are the following: (1) on or about the date alleged, a person possessed a methamphetamine mixture; (2) the person knew that he or she was, or intended to be, in possession of a methamphetamine mixture; and (3) the person intended to distribute some or all of the controlled substance to another person.

Keep in mind, however, that to prove the “conspiracy” offense, the prosecution must only prove that there was an *agreement* to commit either or both of the objectives alleged. The prosecution is *not* required to prove that there was an agreement to commit *both* objectives. The prosecution also is *not* required to prove that either objective *was actually committed*. Instead, the question is whether the defendant *agreed* to distribute a methamphetamine mixture, or to possess with intent to distribute a methamphetamine mixture, or both, not

whether the defendant or someone else *actually committed* any such offense.

If there was no agreement, there was no conspiracy. Similarly, if you find that there was an agreement, but you find that the defendant did not join in that agreement, or did not know the purpose of the agreement, then you cannot find the defendant guilty of the “conspiracy” charge.

Two, the defendant voluntarily and intentionally joined in the agreement or understanding, either at the time it was first reached or at some later time while it was still in effect.

Evidence that a person was merely present at the scene of an event, or merely acted in the same way as others, or merely associated with others does not prove that the person joined in an agreement or understanding. A person who had no knowledge of a conspiracy, but who happened to act in a way that advanced some purpose of one, did not thereby become a member. Similarly, a defendant’s mere knowledge of the existence of a conspiracy, or mere knowledge that an objective of the conspiracy was being contemplated or attempted, is not enough to prove that a defendant joined in the conspiracy; rather, the prosecution must establish that there was some degree of knowing involvement and cooperation by the defendant.

On the other hand, a person may have joined in an agreement or understanding, as required by this element, without knowing all the details of the agreement or understanding, and without knowing who all the other members were. Further, it is not necessary that a person agreed to play any particular part in carrying out the agreement or understanding. A person may have become

a member of a conspiracy even if that person agreed to play only a minor part in the conspiracy, as long as that person had an understanding of the unlawful nature of the plan and voluntarily and intentionally joined in it.

In deciding whether the defendant voluntarily and intentionally joined in the agreement, you must consider only evidence of his own actions and statements. You may not consider actions and pretrial statements of others, except to the extent that pretrial statements of others describe something that the defendant said or did.

Three, at the time that the defendant joined in the agreement or understanding, he knew the purpose of the agreement or understanding.

The defendant must have known of the existence and purpose of the conspiracy. Without such knowledge, he cannot be guilty of conspiracy, even if his acts furthered the conspiracy. You may not find that the defendant knew the purpose of the agreement or understanding if you find that he was simply careless. A showing of negligence, mistake, or carelessness is not sufficient to support a finding that the defendant knew the purpose of the agreement or understanding.

If the prosecution fails to prove these elements beyond a reasonable doubt as to the defendant, then you must find him not guilty of the “conspiracy” offense charged in **Count 1** of the Indictment.

In addition, if you find the defendant guilty of this “conspiracy” offense, then you must also determine beyond a reasonable doubt the quantity of any methamphetamine mixture actually involved in the conspiracy for which he can be held responsible, as explained in Instruction No. 6.

**INSTRUCTION NO. 4 - COUNT 2: POSSESSION
WITH INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE METHAMPHETAMINE**

Count 2 of the Indictment charges that, on or about August 8, 2007, the defendant knowingly and unlawfully possessed with intent to distribute and aided and abetted another to possess with intent to distribute approximately 50 grams or more of a methamphetamine mixture, which contained 5 grams or more of actual (pure) methamphetamine. The defendant denies that he committed this offense.

The Indictment charges that this offense was committed in either of two different ways: personally committing the offense and aiding and abetting another to commit the offense. I will now explain the elements of these two alternatives.

Personal commission alternative

For you to find the defendant guilty of the “possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine” offense charged in **Count 2** under the “personal commission” alternative, the prosecution must prove beyond a reasonable doubt *all* of the following essential elements:

One, on or about August 8, 2007, the defendant possessed a methamphetamine mixture containing actual (pure) methamphetamine.

“Possession” was defined for you in Instruction No. 2. “Methamphetamine mixture” and “actual (pure) methamphetamine” were also defined for you in Instruction No. 2. You must determine whether or not the substance in the defendant’s possession was, in fact, a methamphetamine mixture, as defined in Instruction

No. 2, and if it was not, then you cannot convict the defendant of the charged offense, even if you find that he possessed some other controlled substance.

Two, the defendant knew that he was, or intended to be, in possession of a controlled substance.

“Knowledge” and “intent” were defined for you in Instruction No. 2. Additionally, the defendant need not have known what the controlled substance was, if the defendant knew that he had possession of some controlled substance.

Three, the defendant intended to distribute some or all of the controlled substance to another person.

Again, “intent” and “distribution” were defined for you in Instruction No. 2. In addition, you may, but are not required to, infer an “intent to distribute” from the following evidence: drug purity, suggesting that the drugs were intended to be “cut” or diluted before distribution, if the evidence shows that the defendant was aware of such purity; the presence of firearms, cash, packaging material, or other distribution paraphernalia; and possession of a large quantity of methamphetamine mixture in excess of what an individual user would consume.

If the prosecution fails to prove these elements beyond a reasonable doubt as to the “possession with intent to distribute” charge, then you must find the defendant not guilty of personally committing the “possessing with intent to distribute” offense in **Count 2**.

Aiding and abetting alternative

The Indictment charges, as a second alternative for **Count 2**, that the defendant aided and abetted another in the commission of the charged “possession with intent to distribute” offense. A person may be found guilty of an offense, even if that person did not personally do every act constituting that offense, if that person “aided and abetted” the commission of the offense by another person.

For you to find the defendant guilty of the “possession with intent to distribute” offense in **Count 2** on this “aiding and abetting” alternative, the prosecution must prove beyond a reasonable doubt *all* of the following essential elements:

One, on or about August 8, 2007, some person or persons committed the charged offense of possession with intent to distribute a methamphetamine mixture containing actual (pure) methamphetamine.

The prosecution must first prove beyond a reasonable doubt that all of the essential elements of “personally committing” the “possession with intent to distribute” offense, as explained above, were committed by some person or persons on or about the date alleged. It is not necessary that the other person or persons be convicted or even identified.

Two, the defendant knew that the “possession with intent to distribute” offense was being committed or was going to be committed on or about August 8, 2007.

The aider and abettor must have known that what the other person possessed with intent to distribute was a controlled substance. The aider and abettor need not have

known what the controlled substance was, if he knew that the person personally committing the offense was possessing, with intent to distribute, some controlled substance.

Three, the defendant knowingly acted in some way for the purpose of causing, encouraging, or aiding the other person to possess with intent to distribute a methamphetamine mixture containing actual (pure) methamphetamine.

You should understand that evidence that a person was merely present at the scene of an event, or merely acted in the same way as others, or merely associated with others does not prove that the person voluntarily aided and abetted the commission of an offense. A person who had no knowledge that a crime was being committed or was going to be committed, but who happened to act in a way that advanced some purpose of that crime, did not thereby become criminally liable for that offense. Also, a person could not have “aided and abetted” the “possession with intent to distribute” offense, unless that person intended that some or all of the controlled substance would be possessed with intent to distribute it to another person.

If the prosecution fails to prove these elements beyond a reasonable doubt as to the defendant, then you must find the defendant not guilty of **Count 2** under this “aiding and abetting” alternative.

Quantity of methamphetamine mixture

In addition, if you find the defendant guilty of this “possession with intent to distribute” offense, under either the “personal commission” or the “aiding and

abetting” alternative, then you must also determine beyond a reasonable doubt the quantity of any methamphetamine mixture and the quantity of any actual (pure) methamphetamine in the methamphetamine mixture actually involved in this offense for which that defendant can be held responsible, as explained in Instruction No. 6.

**INSTRUCTION NO. 5 - SPECIFIC DEFENSE:
GUILT OF ANOTHER**

In addition to denying that the prosecution has proved the charges against him beyond a reasonable doubt, defendant Jose Juan Islas-Bravo asserts that he did not commit the charged offenses, another person, Leodan Vasquez, committed them. A defendant has a right, but no duty, to attempt to establish his innocence by showing that someone else did the crime. In considering this specific defense, remember that the burden never shifts to the defendant in a criminal case to prove his specific defense or otherwise to prove his innocence. Rather, the prosecution must prove beyond a reasonable doubt all of the essential elements of a charged offense against the defendant for you to find him guilty of that charged offense. On the other hand, if you have a reasonable doubt that Islas-Bravo committed the charged offenses, after considering all of the evidence, including any evidence offered by defendant Islas-Bravo in support of his specific defense that Leodan Vasquez, not defendant Islas-Bravo, committed the charged offenses, then you must find defendant Islas-Bravo not guilty.

Mere presence

First, defendant Islas-Bravo contends that he was merely present when Leodan Vasquez committed the charged offenses. As I have explained in other Instructions on the offenses charged, evidence that a person was merely present at the scene of an event, or merely acted in the same way as others, or merely

associated with others does not prove that the person joined in an agreement or understanding to commit that offense or engaged in that offense. A person who had no knowledge that a crime was being committed or was going to be committed, but who happened to act in a way that advanced some purpose of that crime, did not thereby become criminally liable for that offense. Rather, the prosecution must establish that there was some degree of knowing involvement and cooperation by the defendant.

Another person's prior conviction

Second, in support of defendant Islas-Bravo's defense that Leodan Vasquez, not defendant Islas-Bravo, committed the charged offenses, you may hear evidence that Leodan Vasquez was convicted of a drug offense or engaged in uncharged conduct that was allegedly similar in nature to the offenses charged in **Counts 1 and 2** in this case. You cannot use this evidence to decide that Leodan Vasquez committed the offenses charged here simply because he committed a similar offense in the past. On the other hand, if you are convinced that Leodan Vasquez did commit the prior offense or engaged in similar uncharged conduct, then you may use that evidence to help you determine whether he had the intent, knowledge, and motive to carry out the acts involved in the charged offenses, or to decide that Leodan Vasquez did not act by mistake or accident, such that this evidence is inconsistent with, and raises a reasonable doubt of, Islas-Bravo's own guilt.

Flight

Third, in support of defendant Islas-Bravo's defense that Leodan Vasquez, not defendant Islas-Bravo, committed the charged offenses, you may hear evidence that Leodan Vasquez sped away shortly after law enforcement officers began to follow his vehicle. You must determine whether this action by Leodan Vasquez constituted "flight," that is, an attempt to avoid arrest, and whether it shows consciousness of guilt on the part of Leodan Vasquez of the drug crimes at issue here. If, after considering all of the evidence, you conclude that Leodan Vasquez fled from law enforcement officers, in order to avoid arrest, with a consciousness of guilt concerning the drug crimes at issue here, then you may consider whether that evidence is inconsistent with, and raises a reasonable doubt of, Islas-Bravo's own guilt on the charged offenses.

INSTRUCTION NO. 6 - QUANTITY OF METHAMPHETAMINE

If you find defendant Islas-Bravo guilty of an offense charged in the Indictment, then you must also determine beyond a reasonable doubt the quantity of any methamphetamine actually involved in that offense for which the defendant can be held responsible.

Although the Indictment charges that the offenses involved specific quantities of either a methamphetamine mixture or a methamphetamine mixture containing actual (pure) methamphetamine, the prosecution does not have to prove that either offense involved the amount or quantity of methamphetamine alleged in the Indictment. However, *if* you find the defendant guilty of an offense charged in the Indictment, *then* you must determine the following matters *beyond a reasonable doubt*: (1) whether that offense actually involved a methamphetamine mixture or actual (pure) methamphetamine, as charged in that offense; and (2) the *total quantity range*, in grams, of the methamphetamine mixture or the actual (pure) methamphetamine involved in that offense for which the defendant can be held responsible. You may find more or less than the charged quantity of methamphetamine for either offense, but you must find that the quantity range you indicate in the Verdict Form for the methamphetamine involved in a particular offense has been proved beyond a reasonable doubt as the quantity range for which the defendant can be held responsible.

Responsibility

If the defendant is guilty of the “conspiracy” offense charged in **Count 1** of the Indictment, then he is responsible for the quantities of any methamphetamine mixture that he actually distributed or agreed to distribute or actually possessed with intent to distribute or agreed to possess with intent to distribute. He is also responsible for those quantities of any methamphetamine mixture that fellow conspirators actually distributed or agreed to distribute or actually possessed with intent to distribute or agreed to possess with intent to distribute, if you find that the defendant could have reasonably foreseen, at the time that he joined the conspiracy or while the conspiracy lasted, that those prohibited acts were a necessary or natural consequence of the conspiracy. Methamphetamine mixture acquired for personal use should be included when determining the drug quantity for the “conspiracy” offense.

A defendant guilty of the “possession with intent to distribute” offense charged in **Count 2** of the Indictment is responsible for the quantities of any methamphetamine mixture containing actual (pure) methamphetamine that he actually possessed with intent to distribute, as “possession” is explained in Instruction No. 2 and “intent to distribute” is further explained in Instruction No. 4, on page 12, in the explanation to element *three* of the “personal commission” alternative. Thus, for the “possession with intent to distribute” offense, you must determine the quantity of methamphetamine mixture involved in the offense and the quantity of actual (pure) methamphetamine actually contained in that methamphetamine mixture. Quantities of methamphetamine mixture containing

actual (pure) methamphetamine acquired only for personal use should *not* be included when determining the drug quantity for the “possession with intent to distribute” offense.

Determination of quantity and verdict

For each offense on which you have found the defendant guilty, you must determine beyond a reasonable doubt the *total quantity range*, in *grams*, of the methamphetamine involved in that offense for which you find the defendant can be held responsible. You must then indicate that *total quantity range* in the Verdict Form.

Thus, if you find the defendant guilty of the “conspiracy” offense in **Count 1** of the Indictment, then you must determine beyond a reasonable doubt whether the defendant can be held responsible for a conspiracy involving 500 grams or more of a methamphetamine mixture, 50 grams or more but less than 500 grams of a methamphetamine mixture, or less than 50 grams of a methamphetamine mixture.

Similarly, if you find the defendant guilty of the “possession with intent to distribute” offense in **Count 2**, then you must determine beyond a reasonable doubt whether the defendant can be held responsible for possessing with intent to distribute 50 grams or more or less than 50 grams of methamphetamine mixture and then determine whether the methamphetamine mixture contained 5 grams or more of actual (pure) methamphetamine, or less than 5 grams of actual (pure) methamphetamine.

In making your determination of quantity as required, it may be helpful to remember that one pound is approximately equal to 453.6 grams and that one ounce is approximately equal to 28.34 grams.

**INSTRUCTION NO. 7 - PRESUMPTION OF INNOCENCE
AND BURDEN OF PROOF**

The defendant is presumed innocent and, therefore, not guilty. This presumption of innocence requires you to put aside all suspicion that might arise from the defendant's arrest or charge or the fact that he is here in court. The presumption of innocence remains with the defendant throughout the trial. That presumption alone is sufficient to find him not guilty. The presumption of innocence may be overcome as to a charged offense only if the prosecution proves, beyond a reasonable doubt, *all* of the elements of that offense against the defendant.

The burden is always upon the prosecution to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. The burden never shifts to the defendant to prove his innocence. Therefore, the law never imposes upon a defendant in a criminal case the burden or duty of calling any witnesses or producing any evidence. A defendant is not even obligated to produce any evidence by cross-examining the witnesses who are called to testify by the prosecution. Similarly, if the defendant does not testify, you must not consider that fact in any way, or even discuss it, in arriving at your verdict.

Unless the prosecution proves beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant has committed each and every element of an offense charged against him, you must find him not guilty of that offense.

INSTRUCTION NO. 8 - REASONABLE DOUBT

A reasonable doubt may arise from the evidence produced by either the prosecution or the defendant, keeping in mind that the defendant never has the burden or duty of calling any witnesses or producing any evidence. A reasonable doubt may also arise from the prosecution's lack of evidence. A reasonable doubt is a doubt based upon reason and common sense. A reasonable doubt is the kind of doubt that would make a reasonable person hesitate to act. Proof beyond a reasonable doubt, therefore, must be proof of such a convincing character that a reasonable person would not hesitate to rely and act upon it in the more serious and important transactions of life. On the other hand, proof beyond a reasonable doubt does not mean proof beyond all possible doubt.

INSTRUCTION NO. 9 - DEFINITION OF EVIDENCE

Your verdict must be based only on the evidence presented in this case and these and any other instructions that may be given to you during the trial. Evidence is:

1. Testimony.
2. Exhibits that are admitted into evidence.
3. Stipulations, which are agreements between the parties.

Evidence may be “direct” or “circumstantial.” The law makes no distinction between the weight to be given to direct and circumstantial evidence. The weight to be given any evidence is for you to decide.

A particular item of evidence is sometimes admitted only for a limited purpose, and not for any other purpose. Judge Bennett will tell you if that happens, and instruct you on the purposes for which the item can and cannot be used.

The fact that an exhibit may be shown to you does not mean that you must rely on it more than you rely on other evidence.

The following are not evidence:

1. Statements, arguments, questions, and comments by the lawyers.
2. Objections and rulings on objections.
3. Testimony that Judge Bennett tells you to disregard.
4. Anything that you see or hear about this case outside the courtroom.

The weight of the evidence is not determined merely by the number of witnesses testifying as to the existence or non-existence of any fact. Also, the

weight of the evidence is not determined merely by the number or volume of documents or exhibits. The weight of the evidence depends upon its quality, which means how convincing it is, and not merely upon its quantity. For example, you may choose to believe the testimony of one witness, if you find that witness to be convincing, even if a number of other witnesses contradict the witness's testimony. Also, you are free to disbelieve the testimony of any or all witnesses. The quality and weight of the evidence are for you to decide.

INSTRUCTION NO. 10 - CREDIBILITY AND IMPEACHMENT

In deciding what the facts are, you will have to decide what testimony you believe and what testimony you do not believe. You may believe all of what a witness says, only part of it, or none of it.

In deciding what testimony to believe, consider each witness's intelligence, the opportunity the witness had to see or hear the things the witness testifies about, the witness's memory, any motives the witness may have for testifying a certain way, the manner of the witness while testifying, whether the witness said something different at an earlier time, the witness's drug or alcohol use or addiction, if any, the general reasonableness of the witness's testimony, and the extent to which the witness's testimony is consistent or inconsistent with any other evidence. In deciding whether or not to believe a witness, keep in mind that people sometimes see or hear things differently and sometimes forget things. You need to consider, therefore, whether a contradiction results from an innocent misrecollection or sincere lapse of memory, or instead from an intentional falsehood or pretended lapse of memory.

If the defendant testifies, you should judge his testimony in the same manner in which you judge the testimony of any other witness.

Ordinarily, witnesses may only testify to factual matters within their personal knowledge. However, you may hear evidence from persons described as experts. Persons may become qualified as experts in some field by knowledge, skill, training, education, or experience. Such experts may state their opinions on matters

in that field and may also state the reasons for their opinions. You should consider expert testimony just like any other testimony. You may believe all of what an expert says, only part of it, or none of it, considering the expert's qualifications, the soundness of the reasons given for the opinion, the acceptability of the methods used, any reason that the expert may be biased, and all of the other evidence in the case.

Just because a witness works in law enforcement or is employed by the government does not mean you should give any more or less weight or credence to that witness's testimony than you give to any other witness's testimony.

A witness may be discredited or impeached by contradictory evidence; by a showing that the witness testified falsely concerning a material matter; or by evidence that at some other time the witness said or did something, or has failed to say or do something, that is inconsistent with the witness's present testimony. If earlier statements of a witness are admitted into evidence, they will not be admitted to prove that the contents of those statements are true. Instead, you may consider those earlier statements only to determine whether you think they are consistent or inconsistent with the trial testimony of the witness and, therefore, whether they affect the credibility of that witness.

You may hear evidence that certain witnesses have each been convicted of a crime. You may use that evidence only to help you decide whether or not to believe these witnesses and how much weight to give their testimony.

You should treat the testimony of certain witnesses with greater caution and care than that of other witnesses:

1. You may hear evidence that one or more witnesses are testifying pursuant to plea agreements and hope to receive reductions in their sentences or dismissal of certain charges in return for their cooperation with the prosecution in this case. If the prosecutor handling such a witness's case believes the witness has provided "substantial assistance," the prosecutor can file a motion to reduce the witness's sentence. The judge has no power to reduce a sentence for such a witness for substantial assistance unless the prosecutor files a motion requesting such a reduction. If the prosecutor files a motion for reduction of sentence for substantial assistance, then it is up to the judge to decide whether to reduce the sentence of that witness at all, and if so, how much to reduce it, but the prosecutor will recommend the specific reduction that the prosecutor believes is appropriate. The prosecutor may also promise to dismiss certain charges in return for a witness's cooperation. You may give the testimony of such witnesses such weight as you think it deserves. Whether or not testimony of a witness may have been influenced by the witness's hope of receiving a reduction in sentence or dismissal of certain charges is for you to decide.

2. You may also hear testimony from one or more witnesses that they participated in one or more of the crimes charged against the defendant. Their testimony will be received in evidence and you may consider it. You may give the testimony of such a witness such weight as you think it deserves. Whether or not the testimony of such a witness may be influenced by the witness's desire to please the prosecutor or to strike a good bargain with the prosecutor about the witness's own situation is for you to decide.

3. You may hear evidence that certain witnesses used or were addicted to addictive drugs during the period of time about which they will testify. You should consider whether the testimony of these witnesses might be affected by their drug use at the time of the events about which they testify.

* * *

If you believe that a witness has been discredited or impeached, it is your right to give that witness's testimony whatever weight you think it deserves.

INSTRUCTION NO. 11 - BENCH CONFERENCES AND RECESSES

During the trial it may be necessary for Judge Bennett to talk with the lawyers out of your hearing, either by having a bench conference here while you are present in the courtroom, or by calling a recess. Please be patient, because while you are waiting, Judge Bennett and the lawyers will be working. The purpose of these conferences is to decide how certain evidence is to be treated under the rules of evidence, to avoid confusion and error, and to save your valuable time. Judge Bennett and the lawyers will, of course, do what they can to keep the number and length of these conferences to a minimum.

INSTRUCTION NO. 12 - OBJECTIONS

The lawyers may make objections and motions during the trial that Judge Bennett must rule upon. If Judge Bennett sustains an objection to a question before it is answered, do not draw any inferences or conclusions from the question itself. Also, the lawyers have a duty to object to testimony or other evidence that they believe is not properly admissible. Do not hold it against a lawyer or the party the lawyer represents because the lawyer has made objections.

INSTRUCTION NO. 13 - NOTE-TAKING

If you want to take notes during the trial, you may, but be sure that your note-taking does not interfere with listening to and considering all the evidence. If you choose not to take notes, remember it is your own individual responsibility to listen carefully to the evidence.

Notes you take during the trial are not necessarily more reliable than your memory or another juror's memory. Therefore, you should not be overly influenced by the notes.

If you take notes, do not discuss them with anyone before you begin your deliberations. At the end of each day, please leave your notes on your chair. At the end of the trial, you may take your notes out of the notebook and keep them, or leave them, and we will destroy them. No one will read the notes, either during or after the trial.

You will notice that we have an official court reporter making a record of the trial. However, we will not have typewritten transcripts of this record available for your use in reaching your verdict.

INSTRUCTION NO. 14 - CONDUCT OF THE JURY DURING TRIAL

You must decide this case based *solely* on the evidence presented in court, in light of your own observations, experiences, reason, common sense, and the law as I have explained it in these Instructions. Therefore, to insure fairness, you, as jurors, must obey the following rules:

First, do not talk among yourselves about this case, or about anyone involved with it, until the end of the case when you go to the jury room to decide on your verdict.

Second, do not talk with anyone else about this case or about anyone involved with it until the trial has ended and you have been discharged as jurors.

Third, when you are outside the courtroom, do not let anyone tell you anything about the case, or about anyone involved with it, or about any news story, rumor, or gossip about this case, or ask you about your participation in this case until the trial has ended and your verdict has been accepted by Judge Bennett. If someone should try to talk to you about the case during the trial, please report it to Judge Bennett.

Fourth, during the trial, you should not talk with or speak to any of the parties, lawyers, or witnesses involved in this case—you should not even pass the time of day with any of them. It is important that you not only do justice in this case, but that you also give the appearance of doing justice. If a person from one side of the case sees you talking to a person from the other side—even if it is simply

to pass the time of day—an unwarranted and unnecessary suspicion about your fairness might be aroused. If any lawyer, party, or witness does not speak to you when you pass in the hall, ride the elevator or the like, it is because they are not supposed to talk or visit with you, either.

Fifth, do not read any news stories or articles about the case, or about anyone involved with it, or listen to any radio or television reports about the case or about anyone involved with it, or let anyone tell you anything about any such news reports. If you want, you can have your spouse or a friend clip out any stories and set them aside to give you after the trial is over. I can assure you, however, that by the time you have heard the evidence in this case you will know more about the matter than anyone will learn through the news media.

Sixth, do not do any research—on the Internet, in libraries, in the newspapers, or in any other way—or make any investigation *about this case* on your own.

Seventh, do not make up your mind during the trial about what the verdict should be. Do not discuss this case with anyone, not even with other jurors, until Judge Bennett sends you to the jury room for deliberations after closing arguments. Keep an open mind until after you have gone to the jury room to decide the case and you and your fellow jurors have discussed the evidence.

Eighth, if at anytime during the trial you have a problem that you would like to bring to Judge Bennett’s attention, or if you feel ill or need to go to the restroom, please send a note to the Court Security Officer, who will deliver it to Judge Bennett. Judge Bennett wants you to be comfortable, so please do not hesitate to inform him of any problem.

I will reserve the remaining Instructions for Judge Bennett to read to you at the end of the trial.

INSTRUCTION NO. 15 - DUTY TO DELIBERATE

A verdict must represent the considered judgment of each juror. *Your verdict on each charge against the defendant must be unanimous.* It is your duty to consult with one another and to deliberate with a view to reaching agreement if you can do so consistent with your individual judgment. You must not surrender your honest convictions as to the weight or effect of the evidence solely because of the opinions of other jurors or for the mere purpose of returning a verdict. Each of you must decide the case for yourself; but you should do so only after consideration of the evidence with your fellow jurors.

In the course of your deliberations you should not hesitate to re-examine your own views, and to change your opinion if you are convinced that it is wrong. To bring twelve minds to an unanimous result, you must examine the questions submitted to you openly and frankly, with proper regard for the opinions of others and with a willingness to re-examine your own views.

Remember that if, in your individual judgment, the evidence fails to establish the defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt on an offense charged against him, then he should have your vote for a not guilty verdict on that offense. If all of you reach the same conclusion, then the verdict of the jury must be not guilty for the defendant on that offense. The opposite also applies for you to find the defendant guilty. As Judge Zoss instructed you earlier, the burden is upon the prosecution to prove beyond a reasonable doubt every essential element of an offense charged

against the defendant, and if the prosecution fails to do so, then you cannot find the defendant guilty of that offense.

Remember, also, that the question before you can never be whether the prosecution wins or loses the case. The prosecution, as well as society, always wins, regardless of whether your verdict is not guilty or guilty, when justice is done.

Finally, remember that you are not partisans; you are judges—judges of the facts. Your sole interest is to seek the truth from the evidence. You are the judges of the credibility of the witnesses and the weight of the evidence.

You may conduct your deliberations as you choose. However, I suggest that you carefully consider all of the evidence bearing upon the questions before you. You may take all the time that you feel is necessary.

There is no reason to think that another trial would be tried in a better way or that a more conscientious, impartial, or competent jury would be selected to hear it. Any future jury must be selected in the same manner and from the same source as you. If you should fail to agree on a verdict, the case is left open and must be disposed of at some later time.

INSTRUCTION NO. 16 - DUTY DURING DELIBERATIONS

There are certain rules you must follow while conducting your deliberations and returning your verdict:

First, when you go to the jury room, you must select one of your members as your foreperson. That person will preside over your discussions and speak for you here in court.

Second, if the defendant is guilty of a charged offense, then the sentence to be imposed is my responsibility. You may not consider punishment of the defendant in any way in deciding whether the prosecution has proved its case against him beyond a reasonable doubt.

Third, if you need to communicate with me during your deliberations, you may send a note to me through the Court Security Officer, signed by one or more jurors. I will respond as soon as possible, either in writing or orally in open court. *Remember that you should not tell anyone—including me—how your votes stand numerically.*

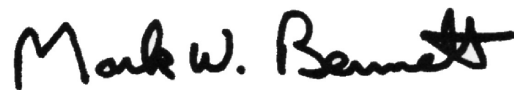
Fourth, your verdict must be based solely on the evidence and on the law in these instructions. Therefore, you must return a separate, unanimous verdict on each charge against the defendant. Nothing I have said or done or that Judge Zoss said or did was intended to suggest what your verdict should be—that is entirely for you to decide.

Fifth, in your consideration of whether the defendant is not guilty or guilty of an offense charged against him, you must not consider his race, color, religious

beliefs, national origin, or sex. You are not to return a verdict for or against the defendant on a charged offense unless you would return the same verdict on that charge without regard to the defendant's race, color, religious beliefs, national origin, or sex. To emphasize the importance of this consideration, the verdict form contains a certification statement. Each of you should carefully read the statement, then sign your name in the appropriate place in the signature block, if the statement accurately reflects the manner in which each of you reached your decision.

Finally, I am giving you the verdict form. A verdict form is simply the written notice of the decision that you reach in this case. You will take the verdict form to the jury room. *Again, you must return a separate, unanimous verdict on each charge against the defendant.* When you have reached a unanimous verdict, your foreperson must complete one copy of the verdict form and all of you must sign that copy to record your individual agreement with the verdict and to show that it is unanimous. The foreperson must bring the signed verdict form to the courtroom when it is time to announce your verdict. When you have reached a verdict, the foreperson will advise the Court Security Officer that you are ready to return to the courtroom.

DATED this 22nd day of July, 2008.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark W. Bennett". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font. The "M" is large and loops around the "a". The "B" is also large and loops around the "e". The signature ends with a small flourish.

MARK W. BENNETT
U. S. DISTRICT COURT JUDGE
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA
CENTRAL DIVISION**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

JOSE JUAN ISLAS-BRAVO,

Defendant.

No. CR 07-3039-MWB

VERDICT FORM

As to defendant Jose Juan Islas-Bravo, we, the Jury, unanimously find as follows:

COUNT 1: CONSPIRACY		VERDICT
Step 1: Verdict	On the “conspiracy” offense, as charged in Count 1 of the Indictment and explained in Instruction No. 3, please mark your verdict.	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Guilty <input type="checkbox"/> Guilty
Step 2: “Objective(s)”	<i>If you found the defendant “guilty” of the “conspiracy” offense charged in Count 1, please indicate the “objective” or “objectives” of the conspiracy.</i>	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Distribution of a methamphetamine mixture	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Possession with intent to distribute a methamphetamine mixture	
Step 3: Quantity of methampheta- mine mixture	<i>If you found the defendant “guilty” of the “conspiracy” offense charged in Count 1, please indicate the quantity of methamphetamine mixture involved in the offense for which the defendant can be held responsible. (<i>Quantity of methamphetamine mixture is explained in Instruction No. 6.</i>)</i>	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 500 grams or more of methamphetamine mixture	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 50 grams or more, but less than 500 grams of methamphetamine mixture	
	<input type="checkbox"/> less than 50 grams of methamphetamine mixture	

COUNT 2: POSSESSION WITH INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE		VERDICT	
Step 1: Verdict	On the “possession with intent to distribute” offense, as charged in Count 2 of the Indictment and explained in Instruction No. 4, please mark your verdict.	<div>____ Not Guilty</div> <div>____ Guilty</div>	
Step 2: Alternative(s)	<i>If you found the defendant “guilty” of the “possession with intent to distribute” offense charged in Count 2, please indicate the alternative or alternatives on which you find him guilty.</i>		
	____ Personal commission		
	____ Aiding and abetting		
Step 3: Quantity of methampheta- mine	<i>If you found the defendant “guilty” of the “possession with intent to distribute” offense charged in Count 2, please indicate the quantity of the methamphetamine mixture involved in that offense for which the defendant can be held responsible, and then indicate the quantity of actual (pure) methamphetamine contained in that methamphetamine mixture. (Quantity of methamphetamine mixture containing actual (pure) methamphetamine is explained in Instruction No. 6.)</i>		
	____ 50 grams or more of methamphetamine mixture	containing	____ 5 grams or more of actual (pure) methamphetamine
	____ less than 50 grams of methamphetamine mixture		____ less than 5 grams of actual (pure) methamphetamine
	CERTIFICATION		
By signing below, each juror certifies that consideration of the race, color, religious beliefs, national origin, or sex of the defendant was not involved in reaching his or her individual decision, and that the individual juror would have returned the same verdict for or against the defendant on the charged offense regardless of the race, color, religious beliefs, national origin, or sex of the defendant.			

Date

Foreperson

Juror

Juror

Juror

Juror

Juror

Juror

Juror

Juror

Juror

Juror

Juror